Federal Update: May 5, 2016

FDA Deeming Regulations Finalized

Today the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products issued its long-awaited ruling which gives the agency regulatory control over all tobacco products. These new regulations broaden the FDA's authority to include both cigars and electronic cigarettes, along with other types of tobacco such as hookah and little cigars. Among other measures, the agency will now be able to require warning labels on all cigars and electronic cigarettes and will be able to impose age restrictions on their sale. These regulations, which have long applied to cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, will now have the ability to be applied across the board to all tobacco, cigar, and e-cigarette products.

The FDA was given the authority to assert this jurisdiction in 2009. Since then, the tobacco control community has waited anxiously for these rules to be finalized. With today's ruling, the agency has followed the American Lung Association's recommendations to assume full regulatory authority over all tobacco products. To see a history of the FDA Deeming Regulation process, you can go here.

Click here to view the American Lung Association's full statement.